

NAVAL MISHAPS.

We Make Too Much Fuss and Sensation Over Trifles.
A good navy, and we do not appreciate it. As a matter of fact, casualties to our new armoured and cruisers have not been great, but frequent and serious accidents are considered. In this country every trivial mishap is caught up and exploited by the sensational newspapers, but nothing is said of similar accidents in foreign navies. Barring the destruction of Admiral Kimberly's fleet by the Samoan hurrer in 1889, with no skill or thought could have prevented our naval service for many years has been remarkably free from really serious disasters.

There is nothing in our records to compare with the capsizing of the British frigate. Captain Moore, the author of the well-known *History of the Royal Navy*, in his account of the fatal collision of the British frigates Vanguard and Iron Duke in 1875, or that of the German ironclad Kaiser Wilhelm and Grosser Kurfurst the year following, when 300 men perished, or the loss of the British training ships *Endymion* and *Atlas* in 1878 and 1880 with 600 officers, sailors and boys. What is to be done?

Admiral Tryon, 22 officers and 230 sailors, by collision with the *Campardon* on June 22, 1883, in the Mediterranean, or the wreck of the Spanish cruiser *Reina Regente*, on March 10, 1895, with 420 officers and seamen?

The list of minor accidents to foreign naval vessels in the past few years would be too long to enumerate. But the standing of the British ironclads Howe and Anson, the flagship Amphion and the cruiser Sultan were far more grave affairs than any such accidents which have occurred to any of our own heavy vessels within this period. We have had our share of troubles, but not more than that. —Boston Journal.

SHE OBEYED ORDERS.

Couldn't Be Blamed If Some of the Callers Refused to Give Their Names.

They are a difficult and everlasting servant problem, which can always be depended upon to furnish a topic for conversation when three or four women are gathered together. Each had told of her experience with her "help," when one of them said:

"My new housemaid is the greenest girl you ever saw in your life. Her ignorance is really a trial to me."

"The day after I gave her the keys she was too busy to remember. But the standing of the British ironclads Howe and Anson, the flagship Amphion and the cruiser Sultan were far more grave affairs than any such accidents which have occurred to any of our own heavy vessels within this period. We have had our share of troubles, but not more than that. —Boston Journal.

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She obeyed orders.

"What were they?"

"They wouldn't tell their names," she answered.

"Wouldn't tell their names?" I exclaimed in surprise.

"Yes, men; but I think one of them said 'bananas' and the other 'rags'."

"I demanded further particulars."

"I tried to tell them you was out and ask their names. You hadn't been gone very long when one of them came. It was the man who called 'bananas.' I remembered what you said, num, and I went after him and told him you was out. He asked me if I wanted any bananas, and I told him that you was out, and he said, 'I want you.' But he wouldn't tell me I was the same with the other person who called. He called 'rags' and only laughed at me when I ran after him." —Chicago Times-Herald.

Scotch Spelling From the Blackboard.

A revival of the old fashioned spelling school has been tried in some localities, but only to prove that it does not, as a rule, reach the poor spellers. They stay away from the schools, and the spelling school is a dead letter.

The spelling school was originally for the glorification of the good spellers. It did something, no doubt, for depraved brains before such mysteries were ever heard of in connection with spelling books — before physical inertia could be charged to weak valual heart action and ugly terms like "spelling" and "spelling school" belongs to a past dispensation.

The burgher who spelling along, Prince Albert, and ugly terms like "spelling" and "spelling school" belongs to a past dispensation, is not a crank. He is a level-headed, well composed, thoughtful and wealthy gentleman, standing high in Edinburgh society. Suppose that a man thus apparelled and caparisoned were to walk along our streets! What a time there would be in the past few years or since the introduction of such gaudy and other funny spars, some of the men and women in American cities wear costumes the like of which were not to be seen in the old times. But for all that we doubt whether Mr. Theodore Napier of Edinburgh would greatly enjoy life in this country if he appeared in the public street in the fixtures described by Saint Mungo.

A Good Bow Is Made.

May I tell the history of my best bow, the dark one nearest the wall? Playing, the newspaper wise man named the like, in comparison with a five foot bow (are (he called it) hickory wood. One citizen is described as follows: "Mr. Theodore Napier is a well known figure in Edinburgh. He walks along Princes street in a kit of royal Stewart or Lennox tartan and usually has a red coat with a dark vest, over the front of which he wears a sword belt and a silk instead of plain leather. He is gorged with dirks, scabbards, spurs and other ornaments, and he lets his hair fall to his shoulders under a bonnet that is a cross between Glengary and Balmoral and trimmed with feathers."

"Well, I help you some," said Grump, and picking up a knife he went at those crabs like a dicky sharky oysters. The dyspeptic watched him as if fascinated and remarked in a sneering tone that came straight from the stomach: "You have a good appetite, Mr. Grump."

"'Yah, I think pretty good," he actively went for another crab. The dish was cleared in a few moments, and I made a mental note that Grump had eaten nine crabs, a dozen large oysters, and drank ten glasses of beer. When the crabs were no more, Grump sat down to a bottle of beer with him, but all hands refused.

"With apparent relish and a fresh glass of beer he attacked the rabbit, and in an incredibly short time the dish was clear of the least particle. Grump wiped his mouth, folded his napkin, and called for another round of beers. If I had any reputation to sustain, I would have refused, but as it was we dined on the glasses.

"Now, I must home be going," remarked Grump, rising.

"What's your hurry?" asked the dyspeptic lawyer in his most sarcastic tones. "Do stay and have something else."

"The dyspeptic waited. Now, if you are looking for a fight, just that little lawyer that Grump wants him to eat supper with him. You'll get it quick and strong." —Washington Post.

De Quincey, who devoted his life to the reading of books, said that the greatest number of books any one man could hope to get through within man's allotted time was 8,500.

Noticed Before.

"I see that the scientists have discovered that solid metal actually evaporates."

"Gee! I bet that is what comes of all my money." —Indianapolis Journal.

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Done with neatness.

POWER FROM OYSTER SOUP.

How an Ingenious Locomotive Engineer Saved His Train and Passengers.

He was more than an ordinarily accomplished lad for an amateur, and they all knew it when they asked him for a story.

"I can tell you how I once ran an engine and saved a trainload of people when an oyster stew was on you want to know, but I don't think of anything more exciting than that," he said apologetically.

"That's good enough," they all declared.

"All right, then, here goes. I said as he settled back in his chair, "I was once engineer on a road that ran for a long distance through the forests of northern Wisconsin, and we were frequently bothered by forest fires. They were particularly bad at the time I speak of. One day I was driving my engine, trying to find a way to get out of the forest, when I saw a bigger one ahead. The worst of it was we were low on water, and there was no chance to fill the tank without dashing through the fire ahead of us. I sent the fireman out to see if we had enough to make the run, but he came back and told me the boiler was almost dry."

"I was puzzled for a while. It was death to all of us I knew to stay there, but how to get out was the question. Suddenly a happy thought struck me. There was a milk car just behind the first lagerage, and I made for it. "How much milk have you got?" I said to the fellow in charge. "About a car, I guess." "I'll give you a car," I said.

"Now, look, say, I — What's that in those cans in the corner?" "Oysters," he answered. "But why do you want to know?" "Never you mind," I told him, and then I crept the other train hands who had come up to see why we had stopped to tote that milk and those oysters to the engine.

"I say, in spite of the kicking of the milkman, and when they had brought them up I ordered them all clucked into the tank. The conductor came up, too, and declared it was a funny notion to be making oyster stew in an engine boiler, when we were in danger of being burned alive, but I soon convinced him that it was necessary if we did not want to stay there."

"Well, we finally dumped in all the milk and all the oysters and started ahead. You ought to have seen the steam that came back into that engine cab. It would have made you think of an old time church festival! "How that soup did smell! It made us all feel good, and when we had all swallowed it — not one of us had the story — we told them about it, and that was the silliest looking scientist I ever saw." —Chicago Times-Herald.

A Scotch Bean Brumwell.

A Scotch Bean Brumwell. Saint Mungo tells of the costume of some of the gentle who will be seen walking the fashionable streets of Edinburgh. One citizen is described as follows: "Mr. Theodore Napier is a well known figure in Edinburgh. He walks along Princes street in a kit of royal Stewart or Lennox tartan and usually has a red coat with a dark vest, over the front of which he wears a sword belt and a silk instead of plain leather. He is gorged with dirks, scabbards, spurs and other ornaments, and he lets his hair fall to his shoulders under a bonnet that is a cross between Glengary and Balmoral and trimmed with feathers."

"At the beginning of the year was given for crabs they invariably brought a dozen, and you paid for as many as you consumed out of that number. The winter comes, he said, and him to bring some crabs, 2½ dozen crabs on the shell and a glass of hot beer. He had persuaded Blakely to try some oysters.

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